

for your information

USDA/USDI Establishes Fire Leadership Council

A new Interagency Wildland Fire Leadership Council has been established by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior to further implement the National Fire Plan. Membership includes FS Chief Dale Bosworth and Mark Rey, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. Other members are five USDI officials: Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs; directors of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service; and chief of staff to the Secretary. The Council will coordinate wildland fire management strategies of the two executive departments to ensure implementation of the National Fire Plan. Assistant Station Director Enoch Bell is a member of the NFP Research Coordination Team.

PSW Receives Boost in 2002 Fire Plan Funding

In 2002, PSW received an increase in funding under the National Fire Plan, totaling \$6.2 million—up from \$5.5 in 2001. Under the Plan, FS Research and Development received \$26 million in 2001 and \$32 million in 2002.

For the current year, funding by the NFP to PSW research units and their Project or Team Leader is as follows: Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects, Riverside (David Weise): \$2 million; Sierra Nevada Research Center, Davis (Peter Stine): \$1.26 million; Fire Meteorology, Riverside (Francis Fujioka): \$500,000; Fire Management, Riverside (Richard Kimberlin): \$500,000; Timber/Wildlife Interactions, Arcata (Danny Lee): \$500,000; Urban Forestry, Davis (Greg McPherson): \$500,000; Recreation/Urban Culture, Riverside (Jim Absher/ Debbie Chavez/Pat Winter): \$415,000; Soil Productivity, Redding (Bob Powers): \$300,000; Atmospheric Deposition, Riverside (Mike Arbaugh): \$213,000.

Station researchers are carrying on a wide range of research, from the effectiveness of alternatives to fire in reducing fuels to high-resolution weather models to prescriptions for fire-wise residential landscapes to fire behavior in live fuels.

According to Enoch Bell, Assistant Station Director—Research/Southern California, recent products supporting managers of the National Fire Plan include: guidelines for creating fire-safe homes in the Lake Tahoe Basin in northern California; a low-cost, remote wildland fire-imaging system; a high-resolution fire-weather forecasting system; and an initial-attack simulation model for the Umatilla National Forest, in Oregon.

Oak Symposium Proceedings Published

Proceedings of the 5th Symposium on Oak Woodlands: Oaks in California's Changing Landscape has been published and is now available. The Station was one of 14 co-sponsors of the symposium, which was held Oct. 22-25, 2001, in San Diego and drew more than 300 attendees.

The 846-page proceedings can be obtained in three forms: hardcopy publication, online, and CD-Rom. Single copies of the Station's General-Technical-Report-184 can be requested from Richard Schneider via e-mail at rschneider@fs.fed.us or by phone at 970-498-1392. The online version is available at <http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp>. Order the CD-Rom (\$10) from Rick Standiford, 141 Mulford Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720 (e-mail: standifo@nature.berkeley.edu).

The three technical coordinators of the proceedings were Rick, Doug McCreary, both from the University of California, and Kathy Purcell, research wildlife biologist with the Station's Sierra Nevada Research Center at Fresno.

PSW's publications group worked with staff from the University of California, Berkeley, Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program, inputting all the manuscripts in the new Microsoft Word proceedings template, which was designed by PSW.

Owing to growing regional and national interest in Sudden Oak Death syndrome, a special session was held on the topic. Eight papers on this problem are published in the proceedings. The 80 other papers cover grazing relations, soil relations, Garry oak conservation, oak regeneration and restoration, fire relations, wildlife relations, urban forestry, oak woodland policy, genetic factors, and monitoring ecology.

The San Diego conference was the fifth symposium to be held. Previous conferences were held in 1979, 1986, 1990, and 1996. Proceedings for each of these meetings were published by PSW; they have been among the most widely requested publications from the Station.

Fragoza Assisting PSW in Civil Rights Services

Alice Fragoza is assisting PSW in providing civil rights and equal-opportunity services on an as-needed basis for the balance of FY 2002. She is Deputy Director of Civil Rights, PSW Region (R-5), in Vallejo. She can be reached by telephone (510-559-6308 or 707-562-8747) or e-mail mailto:afragoz@fs.fed.us.

More Changes in FS Leadership Positions

Chief Dale Bosworth has announced these changes in FS leadership positions:

Tom Mills: from Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon, to Deputy Chief—Business Operations, FS Washington. Tom, who served as Project Leader—Fire Economics Research, at PSW in Riverside, succeeds Clyde Thompson, who took a position in USDA in Washington.

Harv Fosgren: from Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, Oregon, to Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico. He replaces Eleanor Towns, who retired earlier this year.

James Gladen: from Deputy Regional Forester—Resources, Southwestern Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants, FS Washington Office. He succeeds Joel Holtrop, who is now Deputy Chief—State and Private Forestry, FS Washington Office.

FS Limits Use of Hands-Free Cellular Telephones

FS drivers are prohibited from using either “hands-free” or hand-held cellular telephones while driving. Although the use of cellular telephones, two-way radios, or other communication devices while driving is warranted and justified in an emergency, their use is to be limited to the extent necessary to convey vital information, according to a May 21 letter from Tom Mills, Deputy Chief—Business Operations, FS Washington Office. All non-emergency use of communication devices shall be made from the shoulder of the roadway or other safe location while the vehicle is stopped.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

Lisa de Jong, Center for Urban Forestry Research, Davis, participated in a colloquium on “Fire Rating Systems: Identifying Communities at Risk,” May 9, Davis, Calif., sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Resource Development.

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month is being celebrated in May, to recognize one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States for their role in the nation’s development. On May 8 PSW employees in Albany attended a commemoration ceremony sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Network in Agriculture and the Western Regional Research Center of the Agricultural Research Service.

Conchita Bura Retiring at the End of June

Conchita C. Bura joined the Forest Service June 30, 1999, and in that time she’s grown fond of the people she works with. “I’m going to miss them,” she says, when she retires from her position as an accounting technician on June 28, 2002. Although her stay in the FS has been brief, Conchita has actually had a lengthy career in government service. She joined the Department of Defense November 3, 1986, and worked with both the Sixth Army and the Navy before coming to PSW.

A native of the Philippines, Conchita immigrated to the U.S. in 1963. She has lived and worked in San Francisco and the Bay Area ever since. Her son and daughter also live in the Bay Area.

Once she retires, Conchita does not plan to spend *all* her free time with her three grandchildren. Instead, she is going to make time for reading, tending her orchids, a hobby she has enjoyed for the past 6 years, and—best of all—traveling. She and her husband have annually traveled abroad, and their trips have taken them all over the world. They love their globetrotting adventures, so in the years ahead they are planning “two or even three trips each year” says Conchita. The next one? To the Caribbean in September. *Bon Voyage*, Conchita!

Please let us know if your address changes. Call Research Information Services at 510-559-6326 or 510-559-6324.

Pacific Southwest Research Station
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, CA 94701-0245